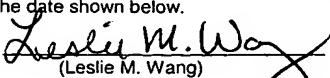


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 078879940 US, in an envelope addressed to: MS PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: March 1, 2004

Signature:


(Leslie M. Wang)

Docket No.: 5433 VIC (60680-1843)
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Kanu G. Shah et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: EPOXY NITRILE INSULATOR AND SEAL
FOR FUEL CELL ASSEMBLIES

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.